

Calendar No. 129

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R. 1016**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2009

Received

JULY 27, 2009

Read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Health Care
5 Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that the provision of
8 health care services to veterans could be more effectively
9 and efficiently planned and managed if funding was pro-

1 vided for the management and provision of such services
 2 in the form of advance appropriations.

3 **SEC. 3. PRESIDENTS' BUDGET SUBMISSIONS.**

4 Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is
 5 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
 6 graph:

7 “(36) information on estimates of appropria-
 8 tions for the fiscal year following the fiscal year for
 9 which the budget is submitted for the following ac-
 10 counts of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

11 “(A) Medical Services.

12 “(B) Medical Support and Compliance.

13 “(C) Medical Facilities.

14 “(D) Information Technology Systems.

15 “(E) Medical and Prosthetic Research.”.

16 **SEC. 4. ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN AC-**
 17 **COUNTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
 18 **AFFAIRS.**

19 (a) ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN AC-
 20 COUNTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United
 22 States Code, is amended by inserting after section
 23 116 the following new section:

1 **“§ 117. Advance appropriations for certain accounts**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, beginning
3 with fiscal year 2011, discretionary new budget authority
4 provided in an appropriations Act for the appropriations
5 accounts of the Department specified in subsection (c)
6 shall—

7 “(1) be made available for that fiscal year; and

8 “(2) include, for each such appropriations ac-
9 count, advance discretionary new budget authority
10 that first becomes available for the first fiscal year
11 after the budget year.

12 “(b) ESTIMATES REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall in-
13 clude in documents submitted to Congress in support of
14 the President’s budget submitted pursuant to section 1105
15 of title 31, United States Code, detailed estimates of the
16 funds necessary for the accounts of the Department speci-
17 fied in subsection (c) for the fiscal year following the fiscal
18 year for which the budget is submitted.

19 “(c) ACCOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The accounts specified
20 in this subsection are the following accounts of the De-
21 partment of Veterans Affairs:

22 “(1) Medical Services.

23 “(2) Medical Support and Compliance.

24 “(3) Medical Facilities.

25 “(4) Information Technology Systems.

26 “(5) Medical and Prosthetic Research.

1 “(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than July 31 of
 2 each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an an-
 3 nual report on the sufficiency of the Department’s re-
 4 sources for the next fiscal year beginning after the date
 5 of the submittal of the report for the provision of medical
 6 care. Such report shall also include estimates of the work-
 7 load and demand data for that fiscal year.”.

8 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 9 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
 10 by inserting after the item relating to section 116
 11 the following new item:

“117. Advance appropriations for certain accounts.”.

12 **SEC. 5. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON ADEQUACY**
 13 **AND ACCURACY OF BASELINE MODEL PRO-**
 14 **JECTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
 15 **ERANS AFFAIRS FOR HEALTH CARE EXPENDI-**
 16 **TURES.**

17 (a) STUDY OF ADEQUACY AND ACCURACY OF BASE
 18 LINE MODEL PROJECTIONS.—The Comptroller General
 19 shall conduct a study of the adequacy and accuracy of the
 20 budget projections made by the Enrollee Health Care Pro-
 21 jection Model (in this section referred to as the “Model”),
 22 its equivalent, or other methodologies utilized for the pur-
 23 pose of estimating and projecting health care expenditures
 24 of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to the
 25 fiscal year involved and the subsequent four fiscal years.

1 (b) REPORTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date of
3 each year in 2011, 2012, and 2013, on which the
4 President submits the budget request for the next
5 fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United
6 States Code, the Comptroller General shall submit to
7 the appropriate committees of Congress and to the
8 Secretary of Veterans Affairs a report.

9 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under this para-
10 graph shall include, for the fiscal year concerning
11 the year for which the budget is submitted, the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (A) A statement whether the amount re-
14 quested in the budget of the President for ex-
15 penditures of the Department for health care in
16 such fiscal year is consistent with anticipated
17 expenditures of the Department for health care
18 in such fiscal year as determined utilizing the
19 Model.

20 (B) The basis for such statement.

21 (C) Such additional information as the
22 Comptroller General determines appropriate.

23 (3) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Each re-
24 port submitted under this subsection shall be made
25 available to the public by the Comptroller General.

1 (4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
2 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-
3 priate committees of Congress” means—

4 (A) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs,
5 Appropriations, and the Budget of the Senate;
6 and

7 (B) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs,
8 Appropriations, and the Budget of the House of
9 Representatives.

10 **SEC. 6. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

11 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall
13 submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs, Appro-
14 priations, and the Budget of the Senate and House of
15 Representatives a report on the requirements of this Act
16 and the amendments made by this Act. Such report shall
17 include—

18 (1) the Secretary’s plans for improving the ca-
19 pability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to
20 better and more accurately estimate future health
21 care costs and demands; and

22 (2) a description of impediments, statutory or
23 otherwise, to providing future year estimates and ad-
24 vance appropriations for the Medical Services, Med-
25 ical Support and Compliance, Medical Facilities, In-

- 1 formation Technology Systems, and Medical and
- 2 Prosthetic Research accounts of the Department.

Passed the House of Representatives June 23, 2009.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

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11TH CONGRESS
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